



December 2, 2014

House Natural Resources Committee
Lansing, Michigan

Re: SB 891 – Part 201 changes – Cleanup of Contaminated Property

Dear Representatives,

The Michigan Environmental Council is an umbrella group of over 65 organizations working on environmental protection and conservation issues across Michigan. A number of these groups are directly involved with efforts to remediate contaminated property and redevelop the parcels in a manner that protects public health.

We have concerns with a number of provisions of SB 891 including the following:

- Parks are treated as nonresidential property, and therefore may be subject to lower cleanup standards even though children could receive significant exposure at those sites. (pg 11 and pg 14)
- The requirement that the department explain the rationale behind not requiring the cleanup of a contaminated aquifer is removed. (page 38)
- The requirement for an aquifer monitoring plan for a contaminated aquifer is removed. (page 39)
- Properties where deed restrictions are used to limit exposure no longer require notice to the department if there is a change of use or construction at the site, or the ability for the department to have reasonable access (with adequate notice) to ensure exposure barriers are being maintained. (page 53-54)
- Language stating the preference for cleanup that remove the hazardous substances over those that just limit exposure to the contamination is removed. (page 36)

We urge the committee to have the department work with interested parties on the suggested language in the bill and provide better protection for public health in communities across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Clift", is written over the word "Sincerely," and extends down over the printed name.

James Clift, Policy Director
Michigan Environmental Council